

THRIFT AMONG SOLDIERS.

Afro-American Soldiers Returning From the Philippines with Small Fortunes—Chaplain Steward's Pen Picture—Army Life in the Archipelagos.

That there are contemptible whites seeking to poison the minds of the natives against us is true; but those of us who remember 1865 know that the same trick was tried in Charleston with regard to the colored man from the North, and we know how it ended. The following extract from a letter of a soldier in the 25th Infantry will show how it is working here:

"In our lyceum we have had several comic entertainments for the native membership and the soldier's families." Yes, soldier's families—their Filipino wives, mother-in-law and wagon loads of relatives.

The lives led by some Americans here, according to the testimony of common fame, are such as should bring shame to the national countenance. An ex-officer of the Dutch army said to me that for drunkenness of officers and men, he had never seen anything to approach. To use his own words, "within a hundred miles of the American army as represented in Manila." He claimed to know something of all the civilized armies of the world. In defense I could only say that, undoubtedly, there was too much drunkenness; but I thought the excuses here were more numerous than ordinarily prevailed in the army. But it is not in drunkenness alone that Americans are talked about. If all the rumors that are in circulation here could be wafted to the ears of wives and sweethearts, mothers and sisters at home, what heartaches, what headaches there would be. The longer I live and the wider and deeper my knowledge extends as regards the character of man, the more thoroughly am I convinced of man's moral weakness and deep seated pollution and wickedness. What is this Christianity that demands that China shall open her doors? Its name is commerce, and says, give us of your gold and your maidens. Our doors shall be shut to you; but your doors must be open doors to us, for are we not white and therefore, God's people? Open the doors or we will break them down with the guns of God.

But I must pass to a few particulars. Chaplain Prioleau arrived here a short time ago and spent a few hours on shore with me, and then sped away southward with his regiment. The colored officers are making a splendid record here. Some days ago Las Pinas was attacked from five different directions. The garrison consisted of two companies 49th Infantry, Company B, under command of Captain Staff, and Company G, under command of Captain Frank R. Steward, who as senior officer, was also commander of the post. The troops were handled with such judgment and skill that the attacks were repulsed and the Commanding General of the District telegraphed his congratulations to Captain Steward for his able handling of his forces. In the garrison are some very fine soldiers as of ficers, for instance, Captain Staff and Lieutenants Spurlock and Golf, all of whom have seen important service in the regular army. The battalion of the 49th which includes the above companies, has been near here every since it landed, has gone southward in the Lake Province. The men of the two colored regiments are generally of a good class and are saving their money. One company of the 49th is said not to have had a man in confinement, trial

by court martial or on sick report since its organization. It seems incredible, but I saw such a statement published not long ago. If true, the record is unparalleled in the army. It is also claimed that every man in the company has a deposit book, and that the deposits on one pay day has reached \$3,000. The records of both regiments are simply excellent.

We are discharging men from the 25th now right along. Very few are re-enlisting. The discrimination against colored men as officers is very likely to affect these regiments seriously in the future. Bright, self-respecting, ambitious men will be likely to ask more and more earnestly what are the chances for promotion? The soldier has three P's: "Pay, Praise, Promotion," the latter greatest of all. Take these away and an army is impossible; take any one of these away and the army is greatly injured. A soldier has just been discharged from the 25th, who will carry away with him from here nearly \$4,000. He is a young man from Texas; born to make money, having already amassed \$20,000, and is not yet thirty years old. Another soldier who will go out soon, who lives near Philadelphia, has saved about \$6,000 in the service. Another soldier went out some time ago with \$15,000. Another will retire soon with probably \$20,000; all of these from the 25th, and there are others with from \$1,000 to \$10,000 saved up or well invested. T. G. STEWARD.

—Christian Recorder.

THE NEW ARMY BILL.

Afro-American Leaders Should See That the Black Soldiers are Looked After—Some Recognition Due Them.

Editor Colored American—In view of the record and progress made by the colored race in industry, in intelligence and especially in view of his splendid record as a soldier, it would seem only just and right in the reorganization of the army that the colored soldier be allowed to share the glory and benefits that are justly his because of services rendered. It seems according to the bill now pending in Congress that the white volunteer is to be allowed to reap some of the permanent and lasting rewards by being given a place in the regular establishment. That seems fair and right. Should not the colored volunteer be treated likewise? He is undergoing the same hardships winning the same renown, for himself and country, upholding the same flag and shedding his blood for his country's cause. He volunteered his services. Now would it not be the fair and right thing to have the 48th and 49th volunteer regiments (colored) now serving in the Philippines transferred as they are now organized, with officers and men, just as they are, into the regular services. In these regiments the field officers are white and the line officers are colored.

Since the day when Crispus Attucks fell on Boston Commons, the first to shed the blood that this country might be free, in the Revolutionary War, in the war of 1812, in the war of the Rebellion, in the Indian outbreaks on the western frontier, in the war with Spain and now in the Philippines, the colored man has shown by an enviable record that he is a soldier and a fighter. In the immune and volunteer regiments in the war with Spain he made a record as an officer that in every way was equal to that of the white volunteer officer. Now he asks to be allowed the same chance with the white volunteer officers in the regular establish-



CAPT. H. H. BLUNT.

Capt. H. H. Blunt Dismissed.

The dismissal from the service of Capt. Hamilton H. Blunt, of the 49th Infantry, in the Philippines, has been approved by the President and Secretary of War. The specific allegations were that Capt. Blunt, while officer of the day, assaulted Private Thomas Johnson and drew his revolver on another enlisted man. He was also accused of retaining money not belonging to him.

ment. His record as a citizen, as a patriot and as a soldier demands this.

As a member of the 23rd Kansas Infantry Volunteer which made a good record while doing six months garrison duty in Cuba, and on behalf of the members and friends of the regiment all over Kansas who are justly proud of her record and who ask for just and fair treatment, I appeal to you to use your influence and take the matter up with Lieutenant General Miles, Secretary Root and President McKinley to the end that the 48th and 49th Regiments as now organized be transferred to the regular service. Hoping this may meet your hearty approval, and you will help us in a laudable ambition.

Yours very truly,

SHERMAN HARVEY,
Lawrence, Kansas, Dec. 20th, 1900.

Quill Drivers Entertained.

The Washington Post gives the following account of the dinner given last Saturday evening to the bright young men of the District who keep the outside world posted on what is "doing" at the Nation's capital.

"The resident correspondents of colored newspapers were given a complimentary dinner by Judson W. Lyons, Register United States Treasury, and H. P. Cheatham, recorder of deeds, at 1417 Corcoran street, last night. Among the party were L. M. Hershaw, Atlanta (Ga.) Age; R. W. Thompson, Indianapolis (Ind.) Freeman; W. T. Menard, New York Age; Paul H. Bray, Topeka (Kans.) Plaindealer; R. C. M. Simmons, Washington Colored American; T. H. Malone, Atlanta (Ga.) Age; Charles F. Hall, Springfield (Ill.) State Capital; H. Y. Arnett, Xenia (Ohio) Standard and Gazette; H. P. Slaughter, Lexington (Ky.) Standard; Lucien H. White, Georgia Baptist; S. B. Jackson, Omaha (Neb.) Enterprise; H. E. Wilson, Washington Bee; J. E. Smith, Star of Zion, Charlotte, N. C.; J. B. Askins, Odd Fellows' Journal, (Philadelphia); Alexander L. Manley, Washington Daily Record; J. Madison Vance, Congressman Geo. H. White, ex-Governor P. B. S. Pinchback, D. H. Mason, and W. H. Sykes. Addresses were made by Register Lyons, Recorder Cheatham, Congressman White, ex-Governor Pinchback, and others."

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